

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, August 9, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Baddeck, Crescent Grove, Aug. 9th (1887) My dear Mrs. Bell:

Here we are quite comfortably settled in our dear little home already, and now I write to ask if you and Mr. Bell won't think once more over the possibility of making us a good long visit.

Dr. Kerr writes that you are well, better than you have been for years. When will there be a better chance for you to come and consecrate your son's home with your presence. His whole heart and those of your grandchildren are in this place, and they will love it still better for having had you with them here. I would not urge your coming if I did not think I could make you comfortable, but I know I can this year, as I never could before. I have three servants, a good cook and general maid, and a pretty good waitress, and it will be no trouble for me to entertain you. I have a low phaeton like mine in Washington and a high wagonette, and can take you for long beautiful drives. The journey here is the one great drawback, and I cannot say much in extenuation of its discomforts. Still Mamma make it last year with three babies and two nurses, and survived it, so Alec seems to think perhaps you can. Do you sleep well in the train? It would be possible to break the journey in Boston and come on by steamer to Yarmouth, then by train 2 hours to Halifax, then by steamer direct to Baddeck fifteen hours. Both steamers are very good. I think the steamer to Yarmouth goes two or three times a week, the St. Pierre from Halifax to Baddeck only 2 every other Monday, but it is a comfortable boat and the journey delightful, while the boat to Yarmouth is said to be first-class. Do think of it and ask Dr. Kerr what he says. Alec and the children are on the bay rowing over to Red Head where Alec is going to count his sheep and make a record book of them. Tomorrow Alec and I are going to decide on the

Library of Congress

site for our house and then Alec is going to draw up the plans himself. If after all you won't come, can we have one or two of your nieces? Would Mr. Bell come with them? I would like very much to have Mary see the place, and Lizzie and Louisa also, but of course I would not take them all from you though we have three spare rooms aching to be filled.

Very much love to you and Mr. Bell, Your loving daughter, Mabel.